



Bright ideas

Lesson code: CARS-57N9-RESK

PRE-INTERMEDIATE

1 Key words

Read the sentences below and match the underlined words and phrases to their definitions:

1. Alex is very stressed these days. He needs to take time off work.
 2. Joe did not come to work, but nobody noticed his absence.
 3. The bad economic situation will harm our business.
 4. Most companies track their employees' vacation time. They want to know exactly how many days their workers are absent from work.
 5. Morale is very high in our team. Everybody believes that we can become successful.
 6. They claim to be very good salesmen, but I have never seen them sell anything.
 7. The first generation iPhone was launched in 2007.
-
- a. confidence, enthusiasm
 - b. follow
 - c. have a bad effect on
 - d. officially appeared on the market for the first time
 - e. say that something is true (but you cannot prove it and other people might not believe it)
 - f. take a break from your job
 - g. the time when you are not at work because of illness or holiday

2 Reading

You are going to read an article about Richard Branson, a British businessman. Put T (True) or F (False) next to each statement.

1. Richard Branson wants people to take time off work whenever they want.
2. Google do not track employees' vacation time.
3. Letting employees take time off when they want has a negative effect on business.
4. Richard Branson believes that he gave Steve Jobs the idea for iPod.
5. Richard Branson's music store chain closed when Apple launched iTunes and the iPod.



THE
INDEPENDENT

Richard Branson proposes unlimited time off work.

He has introduced the idea in Virgin offices across the United States and United Kingdom.

- 1 Billionaire 'man of the people' Richard Branson has become more popular by saying that everyone should be able to take time off work —whenever they want.
- 2 "Employees should decide if and when they want to take off a few hours a day, a week or a month," the Virgin Group entrepreneur writes in his book, "The Virgin Way: Everything I Know About Leadership".
- 3 He introduced the new idea in Virgin offices across the United States and United Kingdom. The idea is that employees who feel their absence will not harm the business can take leave from their jobs. It is their responsibility.
- 4 Branson got the idea after reading an article about the Netflix business model, and how they do not track vacation time.

"I have a friend whose company did the same thing. They've observed an improvement in everything - morale, creativity and productivity," he said.
- 5 On the subject of great business ideas, Branson claimed that he gave Apple founder Steve Jobs the original inspiration for iTunes. As a result, Branson's Virgin Megastores, a chain of music shops, closed eight months after it was launched in 2001.
- 6 "On April Fool's Day 1986, I gave an interview to a popular music magazine and I told them that Virgin was secretly developing a 'Music Box' which could store music. For a small fee, music lovers can download any individual song or album they want."
- 7 "Many years later, Steve Jobs told me that he really liked the idea. We will never know for sure, but I have always wondered if the April Fool's joke resulted in the launch of iTunes and the iPod —technologies that caused the death of our Virgin Megastores and completely changed the music industry."

Adapted from The Independent, by Jenn Selby, 24 September 2014

3 Talking point

Do you think that Richard Branson's proposal is a good idea?



4 Grammar - Defining relative clauses

A **relative clause** is a part of a sentence. It can begin with **which**, **who**, **that** or **whose**. Complete the table below with examples from the text.

| | Use and examples |
|-------|--|
| who | We use who when we are talking about people: ... employees who feel their absence will not harm the business (P3) |
| which | We use which when we are talking about things: (P6) |
| that | We use that instead of who or which : technologies that caused the death of our Virgin Megastores (P7) |
| whose | We use whose instead of his/her/their : (P4) |
| | |

Important points

1) **That** is more usual than **which** in defining relative clauses.

2) We do not use **what** in relative clauses.

I've never eaten a pizza ~~what that~~ tastes so good!

What = 'the thing(s) that'

What I wanted was out of stock.

I can't decide **what** to buy.

3) We can also use **where** when we talk about place:

I can't remember the name of the hotel **where** we stayed.

4) When **who/that/which** is the object of the verb, we can leave it out:

They didn't have the shirt **that** I wanted to buy. They didn't have the shirt I wanted to buy.

In the above sentence, **that** (= the shirt) is the object of the verb *wanted*. But if **who/that/which** is the subject of the verb, we cannot leave it out:

Do you know the woman **who** is standing over there?

(NOT: Do you know the woman is standing over there?)

5 Practice 1

Make one sentence or question from two, like in the example.

- The receptionist help clients. The clients visit the company.
The receptionist helps clients who/that visit the company.
- I saw the employee. The employee left the company.
I saw
- Let's go to that restaurant. We ate there yesterday.
Let's go to
- I sent you an email. Did you receive it?
Did you receive the email?
- His new laptop doesn't work. He bought it yesterday.
The laptopwork.
- I work in an office. The office doesn't have air-conditioning.
The office
- Vladimir is a director. His company employs over 100 people.
Vladimir is 100 people.
- They met at a cafe for the first time. They celebrated their anniversary there.
They celebrated their anniversary at the

6 Practice 2

Put the words in the correct order, like in the example.

- the office / This / we / work / where
This is the office where we work.
- who / the woman / She's / started / her own business
.....
- most interesting / I / He's / know / the / person / that
.....
- dish / the / This / which / ate / we / yesterday / is
.....
- get / the email / Did you / I / that / sent you ?
.....?
- the man / laptop / was stolen / He's / whose
.....

